



James B. Wright
Senior Attorney

14111 Capital Boulevard
Wake Forest, NC 27587-5900
Mailstop NCWKFR0313
Voice 919 554 7587
Fax 919 554 7913
james.b.wright@mail.sprint.com

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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
January 23, 2003 DOCKET ROOM

SEND BY AIR EXPRESS

Chairman Sara Kyle
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

RE: Docket No. 02-00438: *Complaint of Aeneas against Citizens*
Sprint Response to Citizens Discovery

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed for filing in the above case is the Response of United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company L.P. to the First Set of Discovery Requests dated January 17, 2003 from Citizens Telecommunications Company. A copy of the Response is being served on counsel of record.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James B. Wright
w/perm KBO
James B. Wright

Enclosures

C: Jon Wike (w/encl)
Counsel of Record (w/encl)
Laura Sykora
Kaye Odum

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Aeneas Complaint (Docket No. 02-00438)

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing Sprint Response to Citizens Discovery was served upon the following parties of record by hand-delivery, by fax or by placing a copy of the same in the United States Mail postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

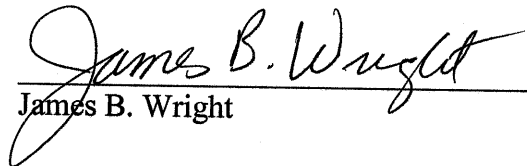
Jonathan Harlan
Aeneas Communications, LLC
301 South Church St.
Jackson, TN 38031

Henry Walker
Boult, Cummings, Conners & Berry PLC
P.O. Box 198062
414 Union Street, Suite 1600
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Guilford F. Thornton, Jr.
Charles W. Cook III
Stokes Bartholomew Evans & Petree, PA
424 Church Street, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37219

Donald L. Scholes
Branstetter, Kilgore, Stranch & Jennings
227 Second Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37201-1631

Dated: January 23, 2003


James B. Wright

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, DOCKET NO. 02-00438
FIRST SET OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF TENNESSEE, LLC TO
UNITED TELEPHONE-SOUTHEAST, INC. AND
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.
DATED JANUARY 17, 2003

1. State all facts upon which you base your interest in the outcome of this proceeding or which otherwise support your petition to intervene.

Response:

Sprint and Sprint United acknowledge that it may not be privy to all the particular details of the controversy between the two parties, but it appears that the controversy is raising issues concerning indirect versus direct interconnections and transit service provided at tandems and end offices. The Tennessee Regulatory Authority could issue a precedent setting ruling regarding these issues that affects Sprint's diverse business interests in Tennessee. Thus, Sprint has chose to intervene in this proceeding in order to provide its position on these important issues and monitor the course of the docket.

Sprint Corporation supports carriers' ability to interconnect either directly or indirectly with other carriers depending on the volumes of traffic being exchanged between the ultimate originating and terminating parties. It is both uneconomic and inefficient from a network perspective to require a CLEC or CMRS provider to directly interconnect with every ILEC (and every other CLEC and CMRS carrier) in a LATA when volumes of traffic do not economically justify direct connections. Therefore, allowing carriers to indirectly interconnect is essential to the development of a competitive marketplace. This position is clearly supported by the Telecommunications Act as well as FCC rules. Section 251(a)(1) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act specifically requires all carriers "to interconnect directly or indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other telecommunications carriers." Moreover, the FCC has affirmed the need for indirect interconnection under the Act, stating that indirect interconnection provides an economic alternative for carriers that do not have market power.¹

It is not possible for carriers to indirectly interconnect without a third party transit provider. Therefore, Sprint firmly believes that ILECs should be required to perform transiting functions for indirectly interconnected carriers at their tandem, not their end office, for small volumes of traffic. It is not appropriate to require carriers to perform a tandem function at an end office switch. Moreover, Sprint believes that the originating carrier and the terminating carrier delivering traffic via a tandem should establish an indirect agreement to address inter-carrier compensation issues.

¹ See *In the Matter of Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Interconnection between Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers*: FCC No. 96-325, 11 FCC Rcd 15499; 1996 FCC LEXIS 4312 at ¶ 997. (rel. Aug. 1, 1996) (the FCC's "Local Competition Order")

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Response to Question 1 (Continued):

Sprint recognizes that once volumes of traffic exceed a certain level, it is more efficient and cost effective to establish a direct connection. This will avoid exhausting the transit provider's tandem and avoid incurring transit charges from the tandem provider. When volumes of traffic are small, however, there is very little incremental burden imposed on the tandem and a direct connection is economically impractical. Furthermore, Sprint's position is that the tandem provider should be compensated at TELRIC-based rates for providing this transit service.

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2. State all facts and circumstances that you intend to assert in this proceeding that do not directly relate to the ability of customers of Aeneas Communications ("Aeneas") to connect with customers of Citizens in Weakly County, Tennessee or within Citizens' Dresden, Martin and/or Sharon exchanges.

Response:

See Sprint's Response to Question 1.

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3. Describe the types of services you provide in Weakley County, Tennessee, or in areas connected by Extended Area Service ("EAS") routes with Citizen's customers in its Dresden, Martin and Sharon exchanges and the number of customers you serve within such areas.

Response:

In the Weakley County, Tennessee area, Sprint offers a telecommunications service to ISPs that allows an ISP's customers to connect to its service by way of dial-up access over local phone lines.

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4. If you contend in this proceeding that your customers have had dropped or uncompleted calls because of connectivity issues with Citizens, with respect to such dropped or uncompleted calls, please (a) identify all dropped or uncompleted calls, by time, date, caller (including telephone number), recipient or intended recipient (including telephone number), location of caller, location or recipient/intended recipient, type of call (e.g. voice, internet, other), and (b) state your understanding as to the reason for the dropped calls.

Response:

Sprint does not contend that any of its customers have experienced dropped or incompletd calls as a result of connectivity issues with Citizens. However, Sprint believes that Citizens' customers in Martin, Tennessee, have been unable to reach Sprint's ISP customers in Dresden, Tennessee. Sprint believes this is possibly due to issues with Citizens similar to those experienced by Aeneas. Unfortunately, this issue was only recently discovered and no detailed data gathering has taken place. Additionally, as the terminating carrier, Sprint has no way of collecting precise data for calls that are blocked or not completed by the originating carrier.

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5. For each recipient or intended recipient identified in your response to request number four (4), please state the volume of monthly volume of calls (by calls, minutes, amount of data, and any other measurements kept by you) received by that customer from Sprint-United and/or Sprint customer(s) in Weakley County, Tennessee or in an area connected by an EAS route to Citizens' customers in Citizens' Dresden, Martin or Sharon exchanges.

Response:

See Sprint's Response to Question 4.

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6. With respect to your customer(s) identified herein that have had calls dropped or uncompleted because of the connection with Citizens' customers, please state the frequency of such occurrence(s), including but not limited to a ratio of completed calls to uncompleted calls to each affected Sprint-United or Sprint customers.

Response:

See Sprint's Response to Question 4.

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7. Describe your interconnection arrangement(s) with other telecommunication providers in Tennessee, including a description of the contractual agreements and the type of connection/switch. Also, provide a copy of all agreements identified herein, include your agreement(s) with BellSouth.

Response:

Both United Telephone-Southeast, Inc., and Sprint Communications Company L.P. have entered into numerous interconnection arrangements and agreements in Tennessee with various telecommunications carriers. The existing connections between each Sprint switch and a third-party tandem will be reflected in the LERG. Likewise, the connections between a Sprint tandem and a third-party switch will also be reflected in the LERG.

The following list of Tennessee Regulatory Authority dockets represents interconnection agreements entered into between United Telephone-Southeast, Inc., and other entities during 2002:

02-00191 – CMRS Agreement with Nextel Partners
02-00194 – Interconnection Agreement with KMC Holdings, Inc.
02-00021 – Collocation Agreement with Caronet
02-00414 – Resale Agreement with NOW Communications
02-00473 – Interconnection/Resale Agreement with Network Telephone Corp.
02-00582 – Paging Agreement with Metrocall
02-00773 – Interconnection/Resale Agreement with Level 3 Communications
02-00895 – Resale Agreement with National Telecom, LLC

The following list of Tennessee Regulatory Authority dockets represents interconnection agreements entered into by Sprint Communications Company L.P. with other entities and Sprint Spectrum L.P. with other entities:

02-00836 – BellSouth and Sprint Communications Company L.P./Sprint Spectrum L.P.
00-00506 – United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company L.P.
00-00669 – United Telephone-Southeast, Inc. and Sprint Spectrum L.P.
01-00480 – Citizens and Sprint Spectrum L.P.

Note: The interconnection agreement between Citizens and Sprint Spectrum expressly provides that “[n]either party shall deliver a) traffic destined to terminate at the other Party’s end office via another LEC’s end office, or 2) traffic destined to terminate at an end office subtending the other Party’s tandem via another LEC’s tandem” (Section 3.5).

00-01032 – Century Tel and Sprint Spectrum L.P.

All these agreements are publicly available at the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

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8. To the extent you have not already done so, please quantify the number of customers and monthly volume of calls (including number of calls, minutes, bytes of information, and any other measured quantity) affected by the manner in which calls are currently routed from Citizens' customers to your customers.

Response:

See Sprint's Response to Question 4.

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9. Please provide all documents that evidence or relate to your responses to the foregoing requests.

Response:

All sources Sprint relied upon in answering the questions are noted in the response to the question and are public documents.